

## Note from the Principal

### February 5, 2019

Dear Families,

February is off to a fast and furious start! What a crazy week we had last week as a result of the polar vortex. It was nice to have a little relief over the weekend with above zero temperatures. We have a few fun winter weeks ahead of us with the Read-a-Thon opening Ceremony now scheduled for Monday, February 11th, 4<sup>th</sup> graders camping at Deep Portage, and 'Ice Week' in PE. It is events like these that get us through the dull drums of a Minnesota Winter.

Although our read-a-thon had a different kick-off than in years past; since last Friday, I have seen many students reading, heard students excitedly talking about the number of minutes they have read, and greeted many parents who have come in to be guest readers in classrooms. Thank you to all for your flexibility with and support of this treasured event! It is going to be a great month of reading and I know we will have another successful read-a-thon!

Please make sure to check out the announcements and important dates below. As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

Ana Bartl  
Principal

## Instructional Insights

**Phonics** - Phonics one of the five pillars of literacy and in MPS is an important component of our approach to reading instruction. Phonics instruction teaches children the relationship between the letters of written language and the individual sounds of spoken language. The goal of phonics instruction is to help children understand that there are systematic and predictable relationships between written letters and spoken sounds (Key Components of Reading Instruction - Minneapolis Elementary Literacy Framework). For more on phonics instruction and other components of reading instruction please see this link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2uurRrQi2cqaC1uWlowYWQtYjg/view>.

## Meet the Burroughs Staff

**Bobb Wold, Kindergarten Teacher** - Mr. Wold is enjoying his third stint teaching Kindergarten this year. He began his teaching career as a 3rd/4th grade reading interventionist and then moved to Kindergarten in his second year of teaching. He is now in his second go round in Kindergarten here at Burroughs after spending five years in First Grade. Bobb's favorite thing about Kindergarten is watching young children develop their literacy skills. He is of course married to the one and only Mrs. Wold who teaches right done the hallway from his classroom. When away from school, Bobb enjoys watching his three young children, (two of them go to school at Burroughs) grow, dance and play sports. He also finds it quite interesting to hear life stories from his three adult children all whom are in their mid to late twenties.

## Announcements

- **Winter Conferences** - Winter Conferences are coming up on Thursday, February 14 from 4:00-8:00 pm and on Friday, February 15 from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Please use this link <https://tinyurl.com/BurroughsWinter2019> to sign up for a time slot to meet with your child(rens) teacher (s).
- **Strategic Planning Committee** - In February we will be convening a strategic planning committee. If you are interested in participating on this committee, please complete an application. The application can be found at [http://burroughs.mpls.k12.mn.us/burroughs\\_visioning\\_notes](http://burroughs.mpls.k12.mn.us/burroughs_visioning_notes)

- **Family Budget Survey** - School budget season will soon be upon us. Your input is important to us! Please use this link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VKM2Z2G>, to take a short survey to provide us with input that will help guide us as we make budget decisions for the 2019-20 school year.
- **Dismissal** -For the safety of all students and adults, please do not cross the street between the buses on James at dismissal time. Please use the crosswalk at the corner of 50<sup>th</sup> and James.

### Dates to Remember

- **February 4-8** Ice week in P.E.
- **February 11** National African American Parent Involvement Day
- **February 14-15** Winter Conferences
- **February 18** NO SCHOOL President's Day
- **February 19** Site Council 5:00 pm
- **February 28** - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 6:00-8:00 pm